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MR. LENT: Ervin Lent, Inyo County Supervisor. I am going to continue my remarks. As you noticed, I tried to breeze through them, and I found out I couldn't do it in five minutes.

Just to recapitulate a tiny bit. [To reiterate, tribal governments need assistance now, not at the time the Yucca Mountain site may be approved or disapproved or when an alternative site is considered.

1 Such assistance should include funds to establish nuclear waste spill and contamination response teams to address accidents within proximity to the tribal ancestral homelands, developed lands, watershed, affected aquifers and atmospheric use areas.

Assistance from state and county entities are literally nonexistent in this regard to waste spills and resulting contamination. At the present time -- and I see this as a private citizen -- counties are somewhat hesitant to offer any form of assistance to tribal governments due to the adversarial relationships that continue between those governments for the past hundred years and more.

Counties fail to recognize tribal governments as partners rather than adversaries, and are unwilling to share the funds appropriated from the federal government regardless of tribal needs. Such funds have been appropriated to address the concerns of tribal governments and were appropriated based on the most current census for the county. ]

2 continued below An item of concern was either omitted -- and [I am going back to the allegation that I had spoken of earlier about tribal government responses regarding items of concern have been either omitted from the DEIS or simply disregarded as unwarranted.

This is ethnocentrism at its best. Such attitudes reflect the following statement of belief. We Americans don't believe in your Indian spiritual and traditional values, because they are not like ours. Ours are the best, and best way of viewing them. And that is how you should see it as well. If you don't see it our way, then your way of seeing it is invalid. Many of our beliefs are termed stories and tales, such things as that.

The DOE's immediate attention is required, and will hopefully reflect respectful attitudes toward the affected units of tribal governments regarding their concerns as genuine. ]

3 [Ironically, during the Advisory Council on Nuclear Waste conference in Las Vegas, the agenda included the topic of why people or the public distrust risk assessment. It appears to me that the DOE is concerned with public perceptions regarding the proposed Yucca Mountain Repository, its risk assessments, and the DEIS. Hopefully, after this hearing, the DOE will work directly with the Affected Units of Tribal Governments, as designated, as well as all concerned citizens affected by this proposed site. ]

2 continued [The DEIS needs stronger language relative to Native American needs and concerns. In Section 4.1.6 such language addressing cultural resources should specifically say that the DOE is required to work side by side with the affected units of tribal governments as the tribes deem necessary. Further, that the DOE will collaborate with the Affected Units of Tribal Governments to protect tribal economies, projected future economies, archeological and cultural resources, traditional and material areas, and to ensure the spiritual value, quality and integrity of lands within the proposed repository and the outlying areas. ]

4 continued on page 2 I have a couple of questions that I would like to ask of the DOE. [What level of funding within the DOE budget for the Yucca Mountain Project is provided to tribal governments on a direct level, and/or unrecognized tribes and/or tribal communities?

For clarification, let me say that federally recognized tribes are those with a land base, either reservations or rancherias. Unrecognized tribes are those not recognized by the federal government, but are either in the process of acquiring or applying for such federal status as a recognized tribe. A third category of Indian people are those communities or tribes recognized by a state government but who do not receive federal assistance due to lack of federal recognition. Finally, there are Indian communities who reside within public lands and are recognized via community-based programs or are a nonprofit status.

It is imperative that all tribes be recognized and be included in all facets of the proposed Yucca Mountain Project. DOE, you must speak to these tribes directly. More time is required to ensure that such tribal governments, unrecognized tribes, and tribal communities be identified and included in the pursuit to provide the public the most inclusive, tangible, and viable EIS.

Tribal governments, state-recognized tribes, Indian communities, and unrecognized tribes range throughout the national landscape. Dialogue, action and inclusion by the DOE Yucca Mountain Project must include these tribal bodies and identify those affected by the proposed repository.

Most tribal entities have not been identified. Essential dialogue must include the voices of tribal peoples that confirm effects relative to socioeconomic, economic, cultural, spiritual, and emergency response preparedness and the assurance that the highest level of the quality of life will be continued.

Another question. Has DOE expended funds for outside consultation regarding the DEIS from persons or scientists not influenced or working for the federal government?

Another question. Why hasn't the DOE or NRC appropriated the highest levels of funding for transmutation of nuclear waste prior to and during DOE's activities to obtain approval for the Yucca Mountain Project?

And again, I would like to thank you for this time. As an elected official, I can see what you folks are trying to do, but yet there are many concerns that need to be addressed in the DEIS, and I hope that you will take these remarks to heart and work with not only myself, but all the tribal governments, units of government, community organizations throughout the United States to hear their voices and to give them a respectable level of interaction.

I appreciate it. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE.]

FACILITATOR LAWSON: Thank you. Mr. Lent is the last person that I have.

MR. DE BOTTARI: I would like to make one statement, about one minute.

FACILITATOR LAWSON: Okay. If you would, please.